Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 7 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The invention provides a filament drawing device for a meltspinning apparatus including at least one manifold that includes an inlet receiving the filaments from a spin pack of a meltspinning apparatus, an outlet, and a slotted passageway extending between the inlet and the outlet. The manifold is adapted to apply a high-velocity flow of air in the slotted passageway effective to attenuate the filaments. The filaments and the air are discharged from the outlet in a discharge direction. Positioned proximate to the outlet is a first plurality of guides aligned in a first row. Each of the first plurality of guides is inclined at a first angle relative to the discharge direction. A second plurality of guides is positioned proximate to the outlet of the filament drawing device and aligned in a second row. Each of the second plurality of guides is positioned between an adjacent pair of the first plurality of guides. Each of the second plurality of guides is inclined at a second angle relative to the discharge direction. The guides cause the flow of air and the filaments to deviate from the discharge direction.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 22 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In accordance with the principles of the invention, the guides of the drawing device ~~separates~~ separate the descending sheet or curtain of airborne filaments into two distinct sheets or curtains that are spaced in the machine direction. The individual guides of the stabilizing device

promote a barrier action that counteracts the vortices and, thereby, ~~prevents~~ prevent the propagation of the vortices from the drawing device outlet to the collection device. This reduces the randomness of the filament trajectories by eliminating or, at the least, significantly reducing turbulence.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The drawing devices of the invention may also be used to add directionality to the strength of the nonwoven web. Specifically, the guides may be configured to provide the nonwoven web with a substantially isotropic strength by tailoring the filament loops to provide a machine direction to cross-machine direction (MD/CD) strength ratio of about 1:1 to 2:1. Alternatively, [[he]] the guides may be configured to provide a highly anisotropic web that is stronger in the machine direction than in the cross-machine direction by adjusting the MD/CD strength ratio to be in the range of greater than or equal to about 2:1 and less than or equal to about 10:1. One approach for tailoring the MD/CD strength ratio is to adjust the configuration of the guides to vary filament elongation in the machine direction. Another approach for tailoring the MD/CD strength ratio is to vary the separation between the drawing device outlet and the collection device to intentionally produce stripes of relatively low web density separating stripes of relatively high web density.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

With reference to Figs. 2-4, the characteristics of the guides 60, 62 influence the characteristics of filament deflection and subsequent laydown on the collector 46. The characteristics of the guides 60, 62 that define the columnar air streams [[61, 63]] 63, 65 reduce the randomness in the movement of the filaments during descent and, thereby, control the filament looping so that the loops are more compact for a given ACD (Fig. 1) than observed for conventional guiding schemes. For typical airflow rates from the filament drawing device 34, the vertical dimension or length of each of the guides 60, 62 is on the order of 0.5 inch to about 3.0 inches. The center-to-center spacing between adjacent guides 60 and adjacent guides 62 may vary between about 0.2" to about 0.75". Each of the guides 60, 62 is tilted or angled relative to the vertical [[place]] plane 66 between about 3° and about 30°, preferably about 10°. The guides 60 and guides 62 may have equal declination angles or the declination angles may vary either in a periodic manner or irregularly in the cross-machine direction. For example, the declination angle of each independent set of guides 60, 62 or both sets of guides 60, 62 may have a non-repeating pattern that decreases with increasing distance from the cross-machine midpoint of the body 54.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 4 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Alternatively and with reference to Figs. 1-4 and 4A, the spunbonding apparatus 10 may also be configured for tailoring the strength of the nonwoven web 48. Specifically, the ACD may be adjusted to intentionally introduce stripes [[68]] 67 of relatively high web density separated by stripes 69 of relatively low web density. The presence of the stripes [[68,]] 67, 69 results in an isotropic ~~cross-machine to machine~~ machine to cross-machine direction (MD/CD) strength ratio,

considered to be isotropic for MD/CD strength ratios in the range of about 2:1 to 10:1. Generally, the striping occurs for an ACD that is less than twice the vertical dimension or length of the guides 60, 62 and increases with decreasing ACD. Compared with conventional guiding schemes, the action of the guides 60, 62 prevents the occurrence of random localized areas of relatively low web density and areas of relatively high web density in the nonwoven web. If striping is not desired, the ACD distance is selected such that filaments 24 guided by adjacent guides 60, 62 are more overlapping in the cross-machine direction, which produces isotropic MD/CD strength ratios of 1:1 to about 2:1. Generally, the ACD should be increased as the cross-machine dimension or transverse width of the guides 60, 62 is increased to prevent the occurrence of stripes of material having filament loops 48b.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

With reference to Figs. 7-9 and in accordance with an alternative embodiment of the invention, a stabilizer 52a of drawing device 34 (Fig. 2) includes an elongated body 68 and a plurality of guides, generally indicated by reference numerals 70, 72 and 74, arranged with a systematic patterned relationship that repeats across the width of the body 68 in the cross-machine direction. Specifically, the guides 70 and 74 are systematically angled at equal angular increments between a positive maximum angle and a negative maximum angle symmetrical about a vertical plane [[72]] <u>71</u> containing guides 72 and diverge from an edge 76. The declination angle of the individual guides 70 varies progressively from the maximum positive angle to vertical and, similarly, the declination angle of the individual guides 74 varies progressively from the maximum

negative angle to vertical. Guides 70 are angles in a downstream direction, guides 72 are vertical, and guides 74 are angled in an ~~upwnstream~~ upstream direction. In an exemplary embodiment, the declination angle of the guides 70 varies from +3° to a maximum of +9° to +3° in 3° increments and the declination of guides 74 varies from –3° to a maximum of –9° to –3° in 3° increments. This arrangement of guides 70, 72, 74 may cause nonwoven web 48 to have stripes of alternating MD:CD ratio in the cross-machine direction.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 21 with the following rewritten paragraph:

With reference to Figs 10 and 11 and in accordance with an alternative embodiment of the invention, a stabilizer 52b includes an elongated body 78, a plurality of first guides 80, and a plurality of second guides 82 separating adjacent guides 80. Guides 80 alternate with guides 82 in the cross-machine direction with a repeating patterned relationship across the width of the elongated body 78 and diverge from an edge 83. Each of the first guides 80 includes multiple facets 88 having corresponding declination angles, relative to a vertical plane 84, that increase in uniform increments between a top surface 85 of the stabilizer 52b and the edge 83. Each of the first guides 82 includes multiple facets 90 having corresponding individual declination angles, relative to a vertical plane 86, that likewise increase in uniform increments between the top surface 85 and the edge 83. Typically, the declination angle of the angled facets 88, 90 on respective guides 80, 82 varies monotonically in equal angular increments. In alternative embodiments of the invention, the declination angle of the individual facets 88, 90 on respective guides 80, 82 may vary in a different manner.